demand for providing Hindi question paper as an alternative of English question paper in the entrance examination for class VII at Rashtriya Indian Military College, Dehradun; and

(b) if so, the action taken so far /proposed to be taken on the assurance ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Yes, Sir. (b) RIMC entrance written examinations are conducted twice in a year during June and December under arrangement of All State Government and UT Administrations. The candidates are examined in three subjects in written examination *i.e.* English, Mathematics and General Knowledge. Since June 2001, the question papers for the entrance examination of RIMC, Dehradun are made available in bi-lingual (English & Hindi) or even in regional languages based on the demand by States except for English paper. As such, the assurance given by the Defence Minister is being implemented.

Selling of mirage fighter planes to Pakistan

4808. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Qatar proposes to sell some mirage fighter planes to Pakistan;

(b) if so, the number thereof ;

(c) whether India has taken up the matter with Qatar expressing its objections; and

(d) if so, the response of Qatar thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Qatar has invited various countries including Pakistan to evaluate 12 Mirage-2000 aircraft for sale.

(c) and (d) Government have taken appropriate steps in this regard.